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CLAIMS:

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 A method of manufacturing a laser detector grating unit (LDGU) comprises: securing a laser unit and a collimator lens to each of a plurality of photodiode chips, which photodiode chips form part of a photodiode wafer;

securing at least one grating beam-splitter strip across a plurality of said photodiode chips forming the photodiode wafer; and

separating the individual laser detector grating units from each other, by dividing the at least one grating beam-splitter strip and separating the photodiode chips.

- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the division of the at least one
  beam-splitter strip and the separation of the photodiode chips is done at substantially the
  same time.
  - 3. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, in which sides of individual grating beam-splitters split from the at least one grating beam-splitter strip do not require finishing after separation.
    - 4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the grating beam-splitters transmit light through only front, rear and bottom faces.
- 20 5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the grating beamsplitter strip is substantially cuboidal.
  - 6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the upper and front faces are substantially reflective.
  - 7. A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the front face has an opening in the reflective coating of each of the grating beam-splitters to be formed from the grating beam-splitter strip.

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- 8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which grating structures are formed on or applied to the rear face of the grating beam-splitter.
- A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the grating beam splitter extends substantially across the width of the LDGU.
  - 10. A laser detector grating unit (LDGU) comprises a laser, a collimator lens, a photodetector section and a grating beam-splitter, wherein the grating beam splitter has substantially reflective upper and front faces and a grating structure on a rear face.
  - 11. A LDGU as claimed in claim 10, in which a rear face of the grating beamsplitter incorporates a holographic grating structure.
- 12. An LDGU as claimed in claim 11, in which the grating structure has a herringbone shape.

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- 13. An LDGU as claimed in either claim 11 or 12, in which the grating structure has a pitch equal to the pitch of elements of the photodetector section on the wafer.
- 20 14. An LDGU as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13, in which the grating beam-splitter has unfinished side faces.
  - 15. A grating beam-splitter as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 14.